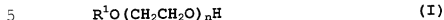


Claims

1. A nonionic surfactant of the formula (I)



10 in which R^1 is a hydrocarbon radical having from 16 to 18 carbon atoms and n stands for numbers from 5 to 10, with the proviso that the iodine number of the substance is in the range from 20 to 50.

- 15 2. The nonionic surfactant as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in that** R^1 has the following chain length distribution:

15 C_{16} saturated : from 55 to 65% by weight
 C_{18} saturated : from 2 to 10% by weight
 C_{18} mono-unsaturated : from 25 to 30% by weight
20 C_{18} di-unsaturated : from 1 to 5% by weight

20 with the proviso that the amounts, together, if desired, with small amounts of shorter-chain or longer-chain homologues, add up to 100% by weight.

- 25 3. The nonionic surfactant as claimed in claims 1 and/or 2, **characterized in that** R^1 has the following chain length distribution:

30 C_{16} saturated : 60% by weight
 C_{18} saturated : 5% by weight
 C_{18} mono-unsaturated : 28% by weight
 C_{18} di-unsaturated : 3% by weight

with the proviso that the amounts, together, if desired, with small amounts of shorter-chain or longer-chain homologues, add up to 100% by weight.

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4. The nonionic surfactant as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 3, **characterized in that** R^1 is derived from palm stearin raw material.

5 5. The nonionic surfactant as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 4, **characterized in that** n stands for 8.

6. The nonionic surfactant as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 5, **characterized in that** it has an iodine
10 number in the range from 30 to 40.

7. A detergent mixture comprising

(a) nonionic surfactants of the formula (I)

15



in which R^1 is a hydrocarbon radical having from 16 to 18 carbon atoms and n stands for numbers from 5 to 10, with
20 the proviso that the iodine number of the substances is in the range from 20 to 50, and

(b) alkyl and/or alkenyl oligoglycosides.

25 8. A detergent mixture comprising

(a) nonionic surfactants of the formula (I)

30



in which R^1 is a hydrocarbon radical having from 16 to 18 carbon atoms and n stands for numbers from 5 to 10, with the proviso that the iodine number of the substances is in the range from 20 to 50, and

35

(b) alkyl ether sulfates.

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9. The use of nonionic surfactants as claimed in claim 1 for producing laundry detergents.

10. The use as claimed in claim 9, **characterized in that**
5 the laundry detergents are in liquid or gel form.

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